

## **Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)**

## **Health Professions Education Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)**

### **1. Do I have to be a permanent California resident and U.S. citizen to apply for either Program?**

Yes. You must be both a permanent resident of California and U.S. citizen in order to apply for all programs administered by the Health Professions Education Foundation.

### **2. What is a “service obligation?”**

“Service obligation” means the contractual obligation agreed to by the recipient of a loan repayment where the recipient agrees to practice their profession for a specified period of time in or through a designated facility.

### **3. Can I still apply for either program if I currently owe an existing service obligation?**

If you owe an existing service obligation to another entity, you are ineligible to apply with the Health Professions Education Foundation until you have completed your existing obligation.

### **4. How are these two programs funded?**

Funds are received through grants and contributions from public and private agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals and are used for the development and implementation of the Foundation’s scholarship and loan repayment programs.

### **5. What are the maximum award amounts for each program and am I guaranteed to receive this full amount?**

The maximum award amount for scholarships is up to \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 for loan repayments. Award recipients may not receive the full amount.

### **6. How many applicants are awarded each cycle under each program?**

The number of applicants awarded each cycle depends on the number of eligible applications received as well as the availability of funding. Each cycle is unique and the Health Professions Education Foundation staff cannot predict the number of award recipients.

### **7. When are the annual postmark deadlines for each program?**

The annual postmark deadline for each program is March 24 and September 11. Make sure that the application you are using reflects the most current year. Updated applications are posted on our website annually.

### **8. Can I submit my application prior to the postmark deadlines?**

You are encouraged to submit your application prior to the postmark deadline in order for Foundation staff to verify that your packet is complete. Applicants are urged to contact Foundation staff prior to the final filing date to verify if their application was received complete. Any documents submitted beyond the postmark deadline will not be accepted.

**9. When will I be notified whether or not I have been selected to receive an award?**

The Foundation will notify applicants of their application results within 120 days of the final filing date.

**10. Which documents must be submitted in order to make my HPSP application complete?**

- Complete Application signed
- Official Transcripts related to your professional education
- Personal Statement
- Two (2) Professional Letters of Recommendation dated within six (6) months of the deadline
- Graduation Date Verification Form
- Copy of the cost of attendance/tuition
- 2009/2010 Student Aid Report or Signed 2008 Federal Tax Return and all W-2s

**11. Can my letters of recommendation be sent directly to the Health Professions Education Foundation or do I need to include them with my application?**

You can either have your letters of recommendation sent directly to our office or you can submit them along with your application packet. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all documents are postmarked by the cycle deadline.

**12. Do I have to be bilingual in order to apply for either of these programs?**

No. You do not have to be bilingual in order to apply for either of these programs.

**13. Who is eligible for the HPSP?**

To be eligible for this program, students must be seeking one of the following health profession occupations:

- Dentistry
- Dental Hygiene
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Certified Nurse Midwifery
- Clinical Nurse Specialist

Scholarships are available to students who are enrolled or accepted in an accredited professional program. Priority will be given to students who will graduate within one (1) to two (2) years. Awardees must sign a contract with the office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP)/Health Professions Education Foundation and agree to the following:

- Be a full-time or part-time student (no less than six (6) units) in a California accredited school.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 each year scholarship funds are sought.
- Upon graduating, complete a two (2) year service obligation to practice in a medically underserved area of California as a Health Professional providing full-time (32 hours per week or its equivalent) direct patient care.

NOTE: Scholarship recipients may be awarded up to two (2) times which carries a two (2) year service obligation for each award.

**14. Who is eligible to apply for the Loan Repayment Award?**

Loan repayment awards are available to licensed health professionals who are currently practicing in medically underserved areas of California in one of the following health profession occupations:

- Dentistry
- Dental Hygiene
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Certified Nurse Midwifery
- Clinical Nurse Specialist

**15. Which documents must be submitted in order to make my HPLRP application complete?**

- Complete Application signed
- Official Transcripts related to your professional education
- Personal Statement
- Two (2) Professional Letters of Recommendation dated within six (6) months of the deadline
- Employment Verification Form
- Educational Debt form
- Signed 2008 Federal Tax Return and all W-2s

**16. What is considered a breach of contract?**

- Failure to complete an accredited professional program
- Failure to complete the service obligation

Awardees that breach their contract with the OSHPD/Foundation will not be allowed to reapply for additional awards.

**17. What if my loans are in forbearance?**

If your loans are in forbearance, you are still required to fill out the Educational Debt Reporting Form and include a recent copy of corresponding lender statements.

**18. If I am selected to be a loan repayment recipient of the HPSLRP, what are the terms of my contractual obligation?**

All loan repayment award recipients are required to complete a two-year service obligation in a qualified facility providing a minimum of 32 hours a week of direct patient care.

**19. If I have been working in a qualified facility for several years already, can I backdate my contract to include time that I have already served?**

No. You cannot use prior employment in order to complete the terms of your service obligation for the loan repayment program. The start date of your two-year service obligation will begin after you are awarded and will be identified in the contract.

**20. What happens if I need to change jobs during my service obligation?**

You have the option to change jobs during the term of your contract; however, you must remain employed with a qualified facility.

**21. What happens if I am unable to fulfill the terms of my contractual obligation?**

If an award recipient is unable to fulfill their contractual obligation, they will be required to repay all loan repayments received, plus ten percent interest. The recipient's contract will be turned over to the Franchise Tax Board for collections.

**22. How many hours are considered "full-time" for the HPLRP and the HPSP?**

Thirty-two (32) hours per week or its equivalent.

**23. If I am selected to be a loan repayment recipient for the HPLRP, does the money come directly to me or will it be sent to my lender?**

HPLRP loan repayments are issued in eight (8) payments throughout the term of the service obligation. Checks will not be issued to the award recipients. Rather, they will be sent directly to the lender on the recipient's behalf.

**24. If I am selected to be a loan repayment recipient under the HPLRP, do I still have to make payments to my lender?**

Yes. Award recipients are responsible for making continued loan payments to their lender throughout their participation in the HPLRP.

**25. If I am selected to be a loan repayment recipient under the HPLRP, do I still get paid my salary?**

Yes. You will still get paid your salary if selected to receive a loan repayment award. Participation in the HPLRP does not affect your salary.

**26. If I am selected to be a loan repayment recipient for the HPLRP, how many times can I reapply?**

HPLRP loan repayment recipients may only receive up to \$20,000. For example, if availability of funding only allows you to be awarded a portion of the total amount after completing the service obligation of two years, you may apply for the balance of the \$20,000 in a new contract.

**27. If I am NOT selected to be a loan repayment recipient of the HPLRP and I am applying again, do I need to resubmit my entire application or can you reuse the materials I have already submitted?**

HPLRP applicants must resubmit a complete application packet each time they apply. The Health Professions Education Foundation will not reuse or return any documentation previously submitted.

**If you have any questions, please contact us at: (800) 773-1669 or (916) 326-3640.**